

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 13, 16 and 18-20 are amended. Claims 2 and 17 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The subject matter recited in claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1. The subject matter recited in claim 17 is incorporated into claim 16. The dependency of claim 3 is altered as necessitated by the cancellation of claim 2.

In sections 2 and 3 on page 2, the Office Action requests that Fig. 1 be designated by a legend as suggested. A replacement sheet is submitted herewith making the change to Fig. 1 requested by the Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the drawings be accepted.

In section 5 on page 3, the Office Action rejects claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for the specified reasons. Claims 5-7 are amended exactly as requested by the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that claims 5-7, from which claims 8-12 depend, are definite as required. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, be withdrawn.

In section 7 on pages 3-4, the Office Action rejects claims 6-12 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3130

Amendment to the Drawings

The attached replacement sheet makes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Regarding claims 16-20, claim 17 is cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Claims 16 and 18-20 are amended as suggested in the Office Action.

Regarding claims 6-12, Applicant notes that the claims are directed to a GUI, not to a data structure of images on the screen as alleged by the Office Action. A GUI is an operating system interface provided to enable a user to communicate with a system based on graphics. Before the advent of GUIs, operators used panels with buttons to operate machines. Today, the graphical icons on the GUI are the equivalent of the buttons on the old operating panels.

The GUI recited in claims 6-12, as with any other GUI, is comprised of a plurality of functional blocks that are implemented in hardware. Standing alone, software or any other computer program cannot be of any use in connection with the recited GUI. Rather, the GUI needs specific hardware for translating the operator commands into controls that store and retrieve data. The GUI needs a memory, other hardware that operates to extract and store the data at particular locations, hardware that maps the icons to the image, and so on. Clearly, any software used by a GUI must operate underlying hardware in order to execute the commands and process the lists manipulated for display.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the GUI recited in claims 6-12 constitutes statutory subject matter. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following recently issued U.S. Patents that include claims reciting a GUI in a manner akin to pending claims 6-12: 7,257,452, 7,218,325, 7,222,310, 7,197,719, 7,187,884 and 7,166,791.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6-12 and 16-20 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter be withdrawn.

In section 9 on pages 5-10, the Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,225,999 to Jain et al. (hereinafter "Jain") and U.S. Patent No. 6,836,275 to Arquie et al. (hereinafter "Arquie"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, "selecting said interactive connector icon for displaying a pop-up window showing a multiple link connector (MLC) list where each outside link object is associated with the respective group object." Claims 7, 13 and 16 contain similar recitations. Claims 3-5, 8-11, 14, 15 and 18-20 depend from claims 1, 7, 13 and 16, respectively.

With respect to the subject matter quoted above, the Office Action relies on column 7, line 62 to column 8, line 16 of Jain. However, Jain discloses opening a menu by actuating a mouse button while a cursor is positioned over the icon for the router of interest. In contrast, claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 recite, "an interactive connector icon," "a list organizer," and "a multiple link connector icon," respectively, that is clearly separate from the objects, icons, or network devices displayed on the map.

Regarding claim 6, from which claim 12 depends, the claim recites, "a system for providing a...map data collector...a multiple link connector (MLC) generator...and a list organizer." It is respectfully submitted that neither Jain nor Arquie discloses, teaches or suggests the subject matter recited in claim 6, as quoted above. Further, Arquie fails to

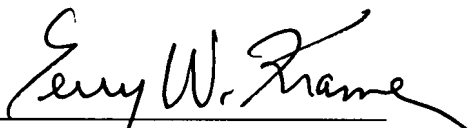
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jain and Arquie be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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